

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



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Eighth District Coast Guard Families

Dear Coast Guard Families:

June 1st marks the official start of hurricane season. As we enter Summer 2024—which will be a busy one full of Coast Guard operations, Permanent Changes of Station (PCS) in and out of the Eighth District, time spent with our family & friends, and yes, likely hurricanes—now is the time to empower yourself with knowledge, awareness, and resources to keep your family, yourself, and your property safe. The forecast provided by the National Hurricane Season projects a busy season this year, perhaps as active as 2020.

The safety of our Coast Guard family is always a top priority, but your individual family's safety is first and foremost, ***your*** responsibility. While we often have the benefit of being reimbursed for our evacuation expenses, please do not let that be the guiding or limiting factor in your family's safety and decision making process. The Coast Guard ***may*** authorize an evacuation, issue evacuation orders, and provide reimbursement costs to evacuate for severe weather events. However, having a plan and deciding when to evacuate your family is something you should be discussing in advance of the storm in order to help alleviate or avoid last minute challenges such as weather, traffic, lack of accommodations, or fuel. It is important that your contact information on unit rosters is current so updates can be passed directly to your families.

We encourage you to review hurricane or evacuation guidance distributed by the Eighth District or your local unit/command. The District will be posting videos containing information on hurricane preparation and evacuations via social media and the Eighth District Staff Ombudsman. The references below are just a few that can help you prepare for the next emergency; we encourage you to review information at the below links and others for your specific locations:

1. Louisiana Governor's Office Homeland Security & Preparedness:
<https://gohsep.la.gov/>
2. Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guide (download):
https://gohsep.la.gov/media/epguide/EmergencyPreparednessGuide_2024.pdf
3. State of Texas resources & tools:
<https://gov.texas.gov/hurricane>
4. State of Mississippi resources & tools:
<https://www.msema.org>
5. MS Dept of Transportation Evacuation Guide (download):
https://mdot.ms.gov/portal/hurricane_preparedness
6. State of Alabama resources & tools:
<https://ema.alabama.gov/>
7. State of Florida resources & tools:
<https://www.floridadisaster.org/hazards/hurricanes/>
8. National Hurricane Center:
<https://www.weather.gov/wrn/hurricane-preparedness>

9. Federal Emergency Management Agency:
<https://www.ready.gov/>
10. USCG Deputy Commandant for Mission Support (DCMS) hurricane resources:
<https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Human-Resources-CG-1/HurricaneCGResources/>
11. DCMS hurricane resource information (CGPortal):
<https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Portals/10/CG-1/docs/HurricaneCGResources/Disaster%20Help.pdf?ver=2017-10-16-183313-823>
12. CG-1M1 Evacuation Allowances guidance:
[Active Duty Natural Disaster Evacuation Allowances Guide 2024.pdf \(uscg.mil\)](#)
13. Eighth District Legal Assistance:
[Home - D8 Legal Assistance \(sharepoint-mil.us\)](#)

While the last few hurricane seasons have had a relatively minor impact on the Eighth District, we must remain vigilant and be prepared using the lessons learned from previous and immensely destructive 2020 and 2021 storm seasons to ensure the least possible impact from unforeseen events on our personnel, families, and units. I am grateful to all of you for the sacrifices you make as Coast Guard families, which make military life unique and challenging, but also rewarding. The resiliency of our units, families, and communities through these challenges and your ability to pull together to help one another during tough times is inspiring.

Mrs. Kristin Johnson is our Eighth District Ombudsman. I highly encourage you to join her distribution list and link to the social media pages she uses to disseminate emergency and other important information. You may contact her at ombudsman.uscgD8@gmail.com. Unfortunately, we will soon bid Mrs. Johnson a very fond farewell as she and her spouse transfer to another duty station this summer. I want to sincerely thank Mrs. Johnson for all of her hard work and dedication in support of our CG members and their families during her tenure as our Ombudsman.

We will announce and introduce our new Ombudsman when the transfer of those duties occurs. In any event, the contact email above and ability to engage the Ombudsman network will remain the same. I also highly encourage you to be part of the Ombudsman network for your specific unit and location.

There will be hurricanes. Please be prepared!

Sincerely,



David C. Barata
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District